

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method for anion regulation in a ruminant, comprising feeding to a ruminant in need thereof a feed which ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of an effective amount of a neutral hydrochloride of an amino compound wherein said ruminant is fed said feed in an amount sufficient to result in a urinary pH of said ruminant of 6.5 to 5.5.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein said neutral hydrochloride of an amino compound is selected from the group consisting of lysine monohydrochloride, ornithine monohydrochloride, and arginine monohydrochloride.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein said ruminant is fed said feed approximately three weeks immediately prior to parturition.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein said neutral hydrochloride of an amino compound is lysine monohydrochloride.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein said ruminant is fed said feed approximately three weeks immediately prior to parturition.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein said neutral hydrochloride of an amino compound is ornithine monohydrochloride.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein said ruminant is fed said feed approximately three weeks immediately prior to parturition.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein said neutral hydrochloride of an amino compound is arginine monohydrochloride.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein said ruminant is fed said feed approximately three weeks immediately prior to parturition.

17. (Canceled)

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 5 has been amended.

Claims 8, 11, 14, and 17 have been canceled.

Support for the amendment of Claim 5 can be found in Claims 5, 8, 11, 14, and 17 as previously filed. Additional support for the amendment of Claim 5 can be found on page 10, lines 8-13 of the specification as originally filed.

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.